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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY FEE NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/320,252	05/26/1999	PAUL EVAN MATZ	0295-0133	4390

21186 7590 12/28/2005

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH
1600 TCF TOWER
121 SOUTH EIGHT STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

ENGLAND, DAVID E

APP PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/320,252

Applicant(s)

MATZ ET AL.

Examiner

David E. England

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 7 - 13, 15, 19, 20 and 24 - 27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 7 - 13, 15, 19, 20 and 24 - 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 5, 7 – 13, 15, 19, 20 and 24 – 27 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 7 – 13, 15, 19, 20 and 24 – 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundaresan (6289369) in view of Maresco (6418458) in further view of Szlam et al. (6314089) (hereinafter Szlam).

4. Referencing claim 1, Sundaresan teaches a method of executing a transaction task within a transaction processing system, the method including:

5. responsive to an event, identifying a workflow associated with the event, (e.g. col. 2, line 48 – col. 3, line 9 & col. 3, lines 22 – 37); and

6. identifying a processor affinity attributed to the task, (e.g. col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 29);

7. assigning the available thread to a processor within the multiprocessor system according to the processor affinity attributed to the task, (e.g. col. 3, line 55 – col. 4, line 14 & col. 8, line 48 – col. 9, line 19);

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8. distributing the task, that at least partially executes the workflow, from a task queue to an available thread within a pool of threads operating within a multiprocessor system, (e.g. col. 5, line 49 – col. 6, line 7, “*central queue, local queue(s)*”);

9. wherein the event comprises a transaction event, (e.g. col. 5, lines 30 – 48).

10. Sundaresan does not specifically teach the distributing of the task to the available thread being responsive to dynamically assigning a new priority to the task; and

11. the task comprises a transaction routing task, responsive to a transaction request associated with the transaction event, that routes the transaction request to an agent of the transaction processing system.

12. Maresco teaches teach the distributing of the task to the available thread being responsive to dynamically assigning a new priority to the task, (e.g. col. 3, lines 37 – 67 & col. 4, lines 16 – 56). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was make to combine Maresco with Sundaresan because if a new task that has a higher priority enters a queue, it would be advantageous to the system to address the new task first in the thread so the system can utilize the important result of the finished thread.

13. Szlam teaches the task comprises a transaction routing task, responsive to a transaction request associated with the transaction event, that routes the transaction request to an agent of the transaction processing system, (e.g. col. 21, lines 1 – 19). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was make to combine Szlam with the combine system of Sundaresan and Maresco because if a transaction task needed a resource that an agent possessed the transaction task could request it from the agent therefore aiding in the completion of the task.

14. As per claim 7, Sundaresan does not specifically teach assigning the available thread to a processor within the multiprocessor system according to a thread priority. Maresco teaches assigning the available thread to a processor within the multiprocessor system according to a thread priority, (e.g. col. 3, lines 37 – 67 & Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Maresco with Sundaresan because of similar reasons stated above and if a thread that has important information that other threads rely on does not get processed first it could cause errors in the system.

15. As per claim 8, Sundaresan does not specifically teach assigning the thread priority to the available thread based on a priority, of the task distributed to the available thread. Maresco teaches assigning the thread priority to the available thread based on a priority, of the task distributed to the available thread, (e.g. col. 4, lines 16 – 56). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Maresco with Sundaresan because of similar reasons stated above and if an incoming task that is important, needs to be completed first, it could be sent to the next available thread within the pool of threads therefore, causing the thread to have the same priority as the task therefore having the task be processed sooner.

16. As per claim 24, Sundaresan teaches determining a best match between the task and the available thread, (e.g. col. 3, line 55 – col. 4, line 16).

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17. As per claim 25, Sundaresan teaches the available thread is a member of a class of threads that are included in the pool of threads, (e.g. col. 6, lines 8 – 29 & col. 8, line 48 – col. 9, line 4) although does not specifically teach threads associated with the priority. Maresco teaches threads associated with the priority, (e.g. col. 4, lines 16 – 56). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Maresco with Sundaresan because of similar reasons stated above.

18. Claims 9 – 13, 15, 19, 20, 26 and 27 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

19. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundaresan, Maresco and Szlam as applied to claim 1 above, and in further view of Sequeira (6222530).

20. As per claim 5, Sundaresan and Maresco do not specifically teach wherein the task has a real-time priority and is distributed in accordance with the real-time priority to the available thread within the pool of threads. Sequeira teaches wherein the task has a real-time priority and is distributed in accordance with the real-time priority to the available thread within the pool of threads, (e.g. col. 5, line 46 – col. 6, line 6 & col. 9, lines 16 – 31). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Sequeira with the combine system of Sundaresan, Maresco and Szlam because if an incoming task that is important, needs to be completed first, it could be sent to the next available thread within the pool of threads before the other tasks and be processed sooner.

Response to Arguments

21. Applicant's arguments filed 09/08/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

22. In the Remarks, Applicant argues in substance that the proposed modification of Sundaresan based on Szlam renders the Sundaresan unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Sundaresan describes a central schedule queue that may schedule a thread for execution on any available processor in a multi-processor computer system, (col. 8, lines 14 – 27). In contrast, Szlam describes a Composite Call Object that specifies the location where the composite Call Object is to execute. It follows that the invention described by Sundaresan would be unsatisfactory for its intended purpose if modified based on the invention described in Szlam because the schedule queues described in Sundaresan would contend with the Composite Call Object described in Szlam for selection of the location of execution.

23. As to part 1, Examiner would like to draw the Applicant's attention to the rejection above. In which one can see that Szlam is only utilized for the teachings of responsive to a transaction request associated with the transaction event, that routes the transaction request to an agent of the transaction processing system. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

24. For all other arguments, Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

Conclusion

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

26. a. Smith et al. U.S. Patent No. 6721778 discloses Unscheduled event task processing system.

27. b. Atkinson et al. U.S. Patent No. 6192121 discloses Telephony server application program interface API.

28. c. Donaghue, Jr. U.S. Patent No. 6226377 discloses Prioritized transaction server allocation.

29. d. Kelly U.S. Patent No. 5999965 discloses Automatic call distribution server for computer telephony communications.

30. e. Blelloch et al. U.S. Patent No. 6434590 discloses Methods and apparatus for scheduling parallel processors.

31. f. Williams U.S. Patent No. 6411982 discloses Thread based governor for time scheduled process execution.

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32. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action, (changing the scope of the claims by adding dependent claims to the independent claim). Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. England whose telephone number is 571-272-3912. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:00-5:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David E. England
Examiner
Art Unit 2143

De



DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100